

## **Foreword**

*These proceedings are a compilation of papers presented at the third APEC Coal TILF Workshop held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 7 and 8 November 2000.*

*Previous workshops were held in Manila, Philippines in April 1998, and Jakarta, Indonesia in August 1997. The Workshop series is organised by the Australian Department of Industry, Science and Resources (ISR), and the Japanese Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry (METI) on behalf of the APEC Energy Working Group. The Vietnamese Ministry of Industry joined ISR and METI as convenors of the Vietnam workshop.*

*The Workshop series is aimed at drawing on the expertise of APEC member economies to assist developing member economies to facilitate and liberalise coal trade and investment. The need to address coal trade and investment issues is being driven by the growth in coal consumption and the need for coal producing APEC economies to attract new investment to support this expansion in coal demand.*

*A major focus of each workshop is to address the barriers to trade and investment in the coal-power sector that are specific to the host economy. The issues addressed in each workshop, whilst focusing on issues of key importance to the host economy, will often be of direct relevance to other APEC developing economies. The workshops and published proceedings are also expected to be of value to business investing in the host economy.*

*Key coal trade and investment issues and challenges for Vietnam were identified through a planning visit to Hanoi in August 2000. Meetings were held with a wide cross section of Vietnamese government, state owned enterprises, business and the industrial community. Sectors examined covered the coal-power sector from coal production through to coal utilisation, electricity generation and transmission. To ensure the workshop's relevance to business, the planning visit team included an industry advisor, Ms Margaret Beardow, Principal of Benchmark Economics. The team was led by Ms Kylie Naveau from the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, Australia. Other team members were Mr Masaki Matsuda of the Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry (METI), Mr Setsuya Yamasaki of the Institute of Energy Economics (IEEJ), Japan, and Ms Rosemary Ryan, Director of The Meetings Manager (workshop organiser).*

*The planning visit team, in consultation with Vietnamese authorities, developed a draft program for the Workshop. This program was circulated to other APEC economies through the APEC Experts Group on Clean Fossil Energy, and to the APEC Energy Working Group for input and speaker/chair nominations.*

*Funding for this workshop was provided under the APEC Trade and Investment Liberalisation and Facilitation (TILF) Fund. This pool of funds was pledged by the Japanese Government at the APEC Leader's meeting in Osaka in 1995 to underwrite appropriate cooperation projects aimed at progressing APEC's objective of improved trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation. The Australian, Japanese and Vietnamese Governments contributed administrative resources in organising the Workshop. The Vietnamese Government's Ministry of Industry sponsored the official reception, and Vinacoal sponsored the official technical tour.*

*Canberra, Australia*

*February 2001*